

1. 2:00 P.M. Open Space Advisory Committee - Sub Committee Agenda 08/04/2020 (Video Conference)

Documents:

[2020\\_08\\_04 OSAC AGENDA \(SUB-COMMITTEE VIDEO CONFERENCE\).PDF](#)

**CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS  
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TRAILS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
(Video Conference – Zoom Meeting)  
Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 2:00 pm**

**Agenda:**

1. Look through and prioritize trail maintenance projects listed in Google Doc (attached below)
2. Identify 2 possible 2-week long projects for Mile High Youth Corps to complete with funding from a GoCO grant AND make a plan to apply for the GoCO grant (due Sept. 17, 2020).
3. Identify trail maintenance projects that can be done by volunteers / volunteer groups
4. Create list of volunteer groups and companies OSAC could hire for projects
5. Discuss “process” to complete trail maintenance projects (if we or other groups propose them)
6. Outline procedures for closing off and restoration of “rogue trails” adjacent to Manitou Trails maintained by OSAC

**“Packet” info:**

**1. – 3.**

Trail Section	Maintenance Project / Need	Severity
Intemann: Trailhead on Ruxton (to Spring St.) to Red Mtn. Trail Head	1. Toadflax signage needs to be removed	1
	2. Place small system map at Ruxton trailhead / update map 1/8 mi down trail heading east	1
	3. Vegetation overgrowth along first section (.1 mi) of trail	2
	4. Critical edge of trail ~ 1/8 mi. east of the Iron Spring is rapidly eroding, new timbers are needed	3
	5. Drainage structures (rolling grade reversals w/ drains) are needed from the start of the trail at Spring St. (chain link gate) to the first 1/4 mile to limit deepening erosion channels on the trail - some structures will be large	2
	6. Tread and backslope needs attention from the start of the trail at Spring St. (chain link gate) to the first 1/4 mile	2
	7. Approximately 10+ highly visible social trails exist from Spring St. to the Red Mountain Trail Head and require closure and signage	2
	8. Water consistently collects on trail in the 'meadow area' at .5 mi, trail is widening to 8ft due to people avoiding water	2
	9. Very steep section at .6 mi (just before the junction with the Red Mountain trail) is showing a lot of erosion. Consider solution or possible reroute.	2
	10. Small trail signs at Red Mountain trail junction are faded and missing - need replacing	1
Intemann: Red Mtn. Trail Head to Pawnee	1. More drainage structures (rolling grade reversals w/ drains) are needed to address water collecting on trail (~ 4 noticeable areas heading east from Red Mountain Trail junction)	2
	2. Clean out of existing drainage structures is needed	2
	3. Tread angle is very steep in spots due to gravel washing onto and mounding on trail	2
	4. Giant gully (~150 ft east of the Red Mountain trail junction) requires serious attention - note: Manitou CATS are working on this area this summer and next	2-3
	5. A second very large gully is forming at the base / junction with the old fire works road (500 ft. / .1 mi. east of Red Mountain Trail junction). Erosion on the trail itself is part of this issue and needs addressing as well. This issue	2-3

	was discussed with Manitou CATS during the May 2020 walk-through.	
	6. Existing timber structures reinforcing edge of trail at .2 mi and .22 mi east from the Red Mountain Trail junction need reinforcement or other attention	2
	7. 'Trail Re-route' signs are still not in place (at .28 mi and .38 mi)	
	8. Reclamation of old stairs needs to be completed	2
	9. Prominent social trail leading to the back/east side of Red Mountain ~500 ft from eastern trail head - needs signage or large scale closing effort.	2
	10. Some vegetation overhang (oaks) along section near Pawnee	1
<u>Intemann</u> : Iron Mtn. Trailhead (on Pawnee) to summit of Iron Mtn.	1. Some vegetation overhang along trail	1
	2. Drainage structures (rolling grade reversals w/ drains) are needed at the upper (old) part of the trail (.7 mi east of Pawnee) due to standing water issues and to address ruts forming in trail	2
	3. Consider possible re-route of upper portion of trail to avoid double-track road portion and create a more 'natural' trail	1
<u>Intemann</u> : Iron Mtn. summit to Crystal Park Rd. (the "pan handle")	1. Some vegetation overgrowth in initial 50' at top of stairs heading north (from CPR)	2
	2. Renegade trails being cut along the steps at the beginning of the trail at Crystal Park Road (CPR). (pic 1)	3
	3. Some structural damage to the stairs on the south side of Wildcat Gulch (pic 3) and a number of timbers have dry rot and need to be replaced on the north side (pic 4). 15 4' and 2 6' timbers that need to be replaced as soon as possible.	1
	4. Signage for closed social trail(s) needed	1
	5. Social trail along stairs on the south side of Wildcat Gulch (pic 2). Doesn't seem to be causing erosion.	2
	6. Just west of the medicine wheel there's some erosion of the road bed (pic 5). The road turns hard to the right up a steep uphill section a few hundred yards from the summit and water is diverted across the roadway. Not surprisingly there's a good deal of erosion here (pic 6). 50 yards or so of the road has started to V into the eroded channel.	2
<u>Intemann</u> : Eagle Mtn. Trail (Intemann junction to the end)	1. Several small trees are obstructing the lower portion of the trail near the ditch line.	
	2. A large fallen tree on the southerly end is obstructing and obscuring the trail and its intersection with the Magog and Gog trail.	3
	3. Width and quality of the tread varies (is in a "natural" state) and requires attention to conform to present day standards.	
	4. Pervasive presence of invasive flora along trail.	
	5. Graffiti on rocks located 1/4-1/2 mi from the trailhead	
	6. Two active campsites are located 1/4 mi from the trail head with evidence of a fire ring - MSPD and property owners should be notified	3
	7. Connection to trail at the Intemann junction needs to be established and/or rerouted	
	8. Signage for the trail is absent	
<u>Red Mountain</u> : Intemann junction to the Red Mtn. summit	1. Tread at the top across the steep exposed section has been widened slightly. Still a cable would be prudent for safety. (Photo #1)	
	2. Rock steps at several switchbacks should be checked yearly and may need to be replaced as they become loosened	2-3
	3. Tread is very narrow all in the upper third of the trail, could be widened by defining the backslope.	1

- 4. Several rolling dips in the lower third of the trail should be cleaned out in order to keep water off the trail 1
- 5. One relatively short section of trail could use some corridor clearing through an area of mostly Gamble Oak - after set of stairs number 3. 1
- 6. Some Mullin and Yellow Toad Flax along trail
- 7. Timber stairs are holding but debris (mostly gravel) needs to be removed from stairs at trailhead and basically all stairs on lower 3rd of the trail. (Photo #4) Gravel should be thrown well off of the trail. 1
- 8. Two log retaining walls on steep switchbacks will eventually fail. When/if they fail, they will take a large sections of critical tread. 2-3

The **Trail Maintenance Manual** developed for the **County of Santa Clara, CA** Department of Parks and Recreation (found at: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/PlansProjects/resource/Documents/parks-trail-maintenance-guidlines.pdf>) outlines the following:

An annual maintenance program will prevent expensive reconstruction projects. With the understanding that there is a limited amount of money and manpower for trail work, that work should be directed toward factors that are causing the most damage. Ideally, drainage maintenance, clearing, tread maintenance and brushing are considered annual routine trail maintenance and performed as a unit by Park Unit Maintenance, Park Ranger, volunteers and in a limited fashion the Trail Crew. Construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and restoration are considered facility trail maintenance and performed on a project basis primarily by the Trail and Project Crews with assistance from the Park Unit staffs and volunteers.

The following chart list the essential trail maintenance activities by their priorities, maintenance occurrence.

Annual Trail Maintenance	Priority	Maintenance Occurrence
Emergency Drainage	1	Major water flow/runoff
Minor Structure Repair	2	Annual
Drainage Repair	3	Annual
Clearing	4	Annual
Minor Tread Repair	5	Annual
Brushing	6	Annual

Annual Trail Maintenance tasks should have minimal supervision and could be conducted by trained Park Maintenance staff, volunteer crews, Conservation Corps, and inmate crews.

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**Tread maintenance consists of:**

- 1. Restoration of uniform outslope, inslope, or crown surfaces.
- 2. Restoration of original width (See trail width specifications).
- 3. Maintenance of back slope (angle of repose).
- 4. Filling of ruts and holes in trail tread.
- 5. Restoration of sections damaged by slides, uproots, and washouts.
- 6. Removal of loose rocks.
- 7. Restore fill approaches to puncheons and bridges.
- 8. Restore crown to turnpike with fine gravel or mineral soil.

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Proposed priority list:

1. Unsafe situations
2. Problems causing significant trail damage
3. Drainage maintenance
4. Closing of non-system (“rogue” or “social”) trails
5. Clearing
6. Tread maintenance
7. Brushing

**4. Create list of volunteer groups and companies OSAC could hire for projects**

<b><u>Volunteer Groups</u></b>	<b><u>Groups for Hire</u></b>
Manitou CATS	Mile High Youth Corps
Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates	Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Boy Scouts / Girls Scouts / Church Groups	Timberline (Tony Boone)
OSAC organized volunteer work day	Flow Ride (Shea)
MSSH Eco-club	Singletrack (Greg Mazu, Aaron)
Friends of Red Rock Canyon Open Space	Trail Arts (Dave Dessel)
	Dave Dombach

**City of Manitou Springs Public Works?** – When is it appropriate to seek them out?

**5. Identify process to complete trail maintenance projects needed**

Proposed process:

1. Prepare initial specs/ proposal for identified project (with enough info. for grants!)
2. Complete walk-throughs, if needed/ requested by OSAC
3. Consider who could complete the work and ask them for interest / availability and cost estimate
4. Discuss options and cost at OSAC meeting, vote on recommendation to City Council for identified project to be completed by whoever on rough date(s)
5. Work with group to refine project specs, set time and date, waivers, set follow-up walk-through date
6. Follow up on project when completed – OSAC member walk-through to check that specs were met, why/ why not, any new concerns
7. Share completion of project including any new concerns at OSAC meeting

**If maintenance project is proposed by another group (ex. Manitou CATS, MWTA):**

Proposed process:

1. All projects must be supported by POST Master Plan – proposals must include reference to specific sections of the POST plan
2. Review proposal at OSAC meeting (with enough info. for use when applying for grants! – what info is this??)
  - a. If funds are requested from OSAC for the project, the costs must be itemized
3. OSAC votes to approve/modify/reject the project or set time for walk-through or further discussion
  - a. Proposal should include key milestones for OSAC inspection and approval, ie design, rough flagged, corridor cleared, pin-flagged, 30/70 % completion, etc.
  - b. OSAC should identify a project liaison who has the responsibility to ensure appropriate inspections are happening and act as the primary interface for the project with the outside group

4. Complete walk-throughs and seek out additional professional input if needed/ requested
5. OSAC shares official “thank you” to group and notifies City Council

## 6. Outline procedures for closing off and restoration of “rogue trails” adjacent to Manitou Trails

The **POST Master Plan** outlines procedures for Non-System Trail Closures on **pgs. 111, 131-132**.

### **Non-System Trail Closure**

The Manitou Springs trail system design considers and balances many factors including physical resources, natural and cultural resources, management and social influences, and public input. The proliferation and use of non-system rogue trails undermine this process. All trails (social, rogue, or otherwise) not in the approved trail system are recommended to be closed using techniques defined in the trail guidelines section.

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### **Guidelines for All Closures**

- Observe and collect information about why the rogue trail is occurring. If conditions on alternative approved routes are the cause, correct them.
- Observe conditions on the rogue trail.
- When appropriate and within the Trails Master Plan, strategically plan and construct reroutes concurrent with the closing of rogue or unsustainable trails.
- When rerouting system trails, make the commitment to solve the whole problem area. For the closure of the original trail to be successful, it is essential to provide a smooth transition between existing and new trail sections. Create alignments that effectively discourage creation and use of rogue trails.

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### **Active Closure**

Several heavily-used rogue trails are in poor locations where they contribute to erosion and degradation of other resources. **These trails need to be actively closed and restored.**

- Construct a new trail providing the desired access or experience *prior to* closing the existing unsustainable or rogue trail.
- Stabilize existing tread with constructed check dams (wood and/or rock) and drains to shed and slow water, reduce erosion, and accumulate topsoil.
- Obliterate the closed trail tread to soften the soil, discourage continued future use, and promote revegetation.
- Cover the obliterated tread with biodegradable erosion control matting (in select locations) and natural materials such as rocks and woody debris.
- Seed the area with native grasses to promote revegetation.
- Monitor the closed trail for erosion, vegetation establishment, and noxious weeds.
- For popular rogue trails, install temporary or permanent fencing to clearly direct users away from the closed trail.

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